



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Class Nardel Gervacio

From the USS Arizona Memorial, Pearl Harbor survivor Delton “Wally” Walling and Joan Bohl look out at the Battleship Missouri Memorial, symbol of the end of World War II in the Pacific. This year’s historic commemoration, “Sound the Alarm,” examined how thousands of Americans answered the call to duty in the wake of the attack. From Pearl Harbor and Midway, the U.S. Navy moved across the Pacific until instruments of surrender were signed aboard USS Missouri (BB 63) on Sept. 2, 1945.



Pearl Harbor survivor Allen Bodenlos renders honors at the USS Arizona Memorial during the 72nd Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration. U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Johans Chavarro | Photo illustration



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‘Sound the Alarm:’ Hawaii remembers Pearl Harbor attack

MC1 David Kolmel

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

More than 2,500 guests, including Pearl Harbor survivors and World War II veterans, gathered Dec. 7 at Pearl Harbor Visitor Center to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The remembrance ceremony, hosted by the National Park Service and U.S. Navy, featured the theme “Sound the Alarm,” examining how thousands of Americans answered the call after the attack and how the nation was united behind a common purpose throughout the war.

The keynote speaker was Max Cleland, secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, was guest speaker.

For Harris, the ceremony was especially poignant since his father was stationed at Pearl Harbor in December 1941 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Lexington, which had set sail just two days before the attack.

“For those who gave the last full measure of devotion for their nation that day, we feel a deep sense of sorrow for the loss of such potential,” said Harris, who took command of the Pacific Fleet in October 2013.

“Yet we are also inspired by their great gift to the world – the gift of freedom itself. They did not go quietly into the night and, along with those who survived, a reluctant nation emerged to fight and ultimately win in World War II,” Harris said. He compared the



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Johans Chavarro

Max Cleland, secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, speaks during the 72nd Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. (See additional photos on page A-4, A-5.)

“Greatest Generation” to Americans who responded after the surprise attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 and discussed how our nation must remain vigilant.

“Thankfully, our nation has always been blessed to have strong men and women with exceptional courage who are willing and able to step forward to do whatever it takes to defend America whenever our liberty is in jeopardy,” said Harris.

“Now, as military efforts in Afghanistan draw down, our nation looks to the future, and we emphasize the tremendous importance of the Indo-Asia-Pacific.”

“Ours is a region of rapid growth, not only in population, not only in industry, but

also in competition for scarce resources and in military growth, and I say ‘ours’ deliberately,” Harris said.

“The United States is, and will remain, a Pacific power. But we also remember the warning from those who survived Pearl Harbor, and we are increasing our vigilance accordingly. Today we are focused as we are listening for the sounds of the alarm.”

Cleland echoed Harris’ sentiment about how the “Greatest Generation” shaped the world we live in today.

“For all the Pearl Harbor survivors, thank you for teaching us all how to survive, how not to just to survive but to strive to turn things around, and how to

ultimately thrive in life,” Cleland said. “I am the direct beneficiary of the greatest of the great generation.”

Harris also commended the Pearl Harbor survivors for the enduring legacy they have provided.

“The fact that we can sit here today, in peace, is just another example of the immeasurable debt we owe to all those who served in World War II, both at home and abroad,” Harris said.

“I offer my salute to those of you here today for your commitment to our nation and for not failing when duty called. As the Pacific Fleet commander, I want to assure you that this current generation of warriors has heeded your call. We

remember Pearl Harbor, we are vigilant, and we are ready to fight tonight and win. Not only are we poised to respond to the first notes of the alarm bell, we are also doing everything possible to keep the alarm from sounding in the first place.”

At 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the attack began in 1941, a moment of silence was observed. During the ceremony, the guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) rendered honors to the USS Arizona.

Navy provided a rifle salute and members of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band performed morning colors and echo Taps. Wreaths were presented in honor of those who died in the attack and

the men and women who survived.

Pearl Harbor survivors and World War II veterans concluded the ceremony with a “walk of honor” in which military service members and National Park Service men and women formed an honor cordon for them to pass through.

In addition to the ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, the park service conducted a USS Oklahoma Memorial Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance ceremony. The 15th Air Wing also held a ceremony to honor the 189 killed and 303 wounded during the attack at what was then known as Hickam Field.

15th Wing honors Dec. 7 heroes at remembrance ceremony

Story and photo by MC1 Cynthia Clark

Defense Media Activity, Hawaii News Bureau

Personnel from the 15th Wing reflected on the 72nd anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941 attacks on Hickam Field during a ceremony Dec. 7 at Atterbury Circle, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

In attendance at the ceremony were a group of men who survived the attacks on Hickam Field that infamous day.

Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, reminded those who attended of a quote from President Franklin D. Roosevelt made in response to the attacks in 1941. “Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us,” Roosevelt said.

“I am in total awe to be in your presence this morning,” Roscoe said to the guests of honor.

“This is just an incredible moment. Today marks the anniversary of a date that really changed the course of world history. Seventy-two years ago, two waves of attacks not only hit here at Hickam Field, but [also at] Pearl Harbor, Ewa Beach, Ford Island, Wheeler, Bellows,



Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Andrew Kowalski is welcomed by local scout troops to the Dec. 7, 1941 Remembrance Ceremony held Dec. 7 at Atterbury Circle.

Kaneohe. It literally was an attack on the island of Oahu.”

While the honored guests were presented with flags, the emcee shared their personal stories of that day 72 years ago. Roscoe talked about how they survived “hell in paradise,” saying, “it’s more than just a story. They keep those who sacrificed alive, they keep us connected, and allow us

to really remember that fateful day,” he said.

One story was of retired Master Sgt. Millard Rice, a 95-year-old veteran who made it back to Hickam this year for the first time since 1941. When Rice, a private in 1941, failed a footlocker inspection on Dec. 6, he had no idea that mistake would save his life.

As his punishment for failing the inspection, he was ordered to clean latrines. While cleaning a latrine doesn’t really sound like an important, life-saving task, it was for Private Rice as he normally would have been in the mess hall at 0800 on a Sunday morning having his breakfast. That mess hall was bombed and ended in sham-

bles, with only a few survivors.

Roscoe said that remembering the past is important not just for service members, but also for citizens of the United States of America. While every survivor of that day has a story, according to Roscoe, it is important that we never forget. “It is [by] remembering and understanding their character that we define our own,” he said.

Another survivor, now Retired Master Sgt. Ken Ford, was on a layover en route to Alaska and was in the shower when he heard the first shots fired. His only means of cover was a desk where he stayed until he felt it was safe to leave.

Later on that day, Ford was able to be assigned a weapon, which he took to the beach at Fort Kamehameha and guarded Hickam Field in the event the Japanese decided to invade with ground forces.

He said that it doesn’t matter where you are when rounds are inbound, it’s how you rise to the occasion and fight back.

While the main focus of Dec. 7, 1941 is the attack on Pearl Harbor, the men who were honored at Atterbury Circle serve as a reminder that bravery and duty to country could be found all over the island of Oahu.

Commentary

‘Living Monuments’ give us inspiring perspective

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

Many of you, like me, had the opportunity last week to meet “living monuments” – our Pearl Harbors survivors – here for the 2013 Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremony. Meeting with these World War II veterans is something I will remember for the rest of my life.

These gentlemen inspire us, especially when we consider what they lived through, how they fought for us, and how they carry themselves today.



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

They don't complain about wartime conditions or how

their lives were changed in the early and mid-1940s.

Consider what they went through. They watched shipmates die. Many of them were injured in their march across the Pacific. Imagine spending four years away from home, 120 days at sea, constantly ready for battle, not being able to communicate with loved ones for months at a time, and making \$10 a month in sea pay!

Our benefits and living conditions aboard ships, in barracks and in family housing have improved immensely since the warriors of World War II stood the watch.

Meeting Pearl Harbor survivors and other WWII

veterans over the past two weeks reminds me of the importance of our professional associations and personal relationships, not only with the past and our heritage but also here in the present.

The ties with each other continue to build speed of trust, accountability and mutual understanding in battle – key intangibles that are hard to define but easy to distinguish.

Admirals Chester Nimitz, Bull Halsey and Ray Spruance were lifetime friends, colleagues and shipmates who forged a strong and trusting partnership.

Leaders on the waterfront and ashore here in the

Pacific are building similar teams and teamwork.

In Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn, Adm. Harry Harris, now commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Adm. Sam Locklear, now commander of U.S. Pacific Command, worked together to liberate Libya and preserve peace in the Middle East and northern Africa. They built strategic relationships with NATO and the Arab League, delivered humanitarian assistance to the civilian population, and supported rebels fighting a totalitarian regime.

Today, this successful relationship continues in the strategic rebalance to Asia-Pacific. That commit-

ment is at the heart of our mission.

Everyone at all levels in our Navy can build those kinds of relationships and bonds that make us stronger. We can all share in the pure joy of service to our country, dedicated to the mission.

We are all part of a chain of veterans, leaders and shipmates who have served in Asia-Pacific. We serve today to prevent future generations and ourselves from experiencing the sacrifices and hardships faced by those who came before us.

Through warfighting readiness and forward operations we can win before we have to fight.

Kids learn of duty, sacrifice, loss in World War II

Bill Doughty

From Navy Reads Blog

Louise Borden's “Across the Blue Pacific: A World War II Story,” illustrated by WWII-era Army-Air Force veteran and artist Robert Andrew Parker, is the story of how duty, sacrifice and loss can affect a nation, a

neighborhood and a child. The effects can last a lifetime.

Borden's story is told with a child's innocence and is based on true events. It recounts the story of the author's uncle Theodore “Ted” Walker who graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1941, served aboard the light cruis-

er USS Memphis (CL-13) in the south Atlantic, and then served fatefully as executive officer in the submarine USS Albacore (SS-218), deployed from Midway to the western Pacific.

Ted Walker and his submarine crew never came home.

The National Park Service (NPS) and Pacific Historic Parks – partnering with the Department of Education, YMCA, and other groups – are conducting a read aloud program for 135 schools across Hawaii to tell the story and ensure history is preserved and understood by all generations.

According to a press release from NPS and PHP:

“The story, ‘Across the Blue Pacific: A World War II Story,’ follows fourth grader Molly Crenshaw who is given

a classroom assignment of writing a letter to servicemen overseas. Molly immediately knows who she will write to – her next door neighbor Ted Walker, who is stationed aboard the USS Albacore. The story talks about the importance of appreciating the sacrifices made by the military.

“As part of this year's program, students will write letters to military personnel, which will then be delivered to active duty military through the U.S. Navy.”

Pearl Harbor survivor Delton “Wally” Walling shared his story at a Dec. 6 Read Aloud at Pauoa Elementary with fourth and fifth graders as NPS ranger Falynn Medeiros read and showed the book. Walling couldn't enlist in the Navy because of a disfigured finger

so he had his finger surgically removed in order to join.

He gave a firsthand account to students about the commitment, courage and consequences of the War in the Pacific.

The National Park Service has posted several real life letters written during World War II by civilians and military personnel for parents to read to their children. For access and to learn more about the read aloud program go, to www.nps.gov/valr/forkids.

“The National Park Service, with funding from Pacific Historic Parks, also offers a year-round distance learning program for students and teachers from around the world,” according to an NPS release.

“Witness To History is a free program that utilizes

videoconferencing technology to take students where visitors cannot go, bringing the sites and stories of Pearl Harbor to children and adults unable to visit Oahu.

“The program includes a Pearl Harbor survivor series where participants can see and hear Pearl Harbor Survivors share their personal testimonies of what they experienced on that fateful day. The interpretive ranger series shows a video of a USS Arizona underwater dive while a National Park ranger provides a voice-over interpretive lesson. The program ends with a student and educator question-and-answer session.”

(For more information or to schedule a free Witness To History videoconference, contact 808-954-8744 or 808-4428).

Diverse Views



What is the worst Christmas present you've ever received?



2nd Lt. Jacob McCorkle
7th Engineer Dive Team

“I don't think I've ever received a particularly terrible present. I guess I've been lucky with my Christmas presents.”

Lt. j.g. Savith Chauhan
USS Jacksonville



“I don't celebrate Christmas. But the worst gift I ever received was moldy chocolate.”



Staff Sgt. Jaimie Hill
65th Airlift Squadron

“I'd have to say soap. Every year for Christmas my step-dad's family would give me soap...I mean, what are you trying to say? You stink, Merry Christmas?”

AWV1 Laquain Jordan
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



“I've never really received a bad Christmas gift.”



Senior Master Sgt. Michael Wilson
HQ PACAF

“Pajamas, every year from my mom. She finally figured out I don't sleep in pajamas. Always loved her for the thought. That's what really counts!”

STG2 Remy Baugher
USS Michael Murphy



“An ugly sweater. I was about 6 or 7. It was a purple, ugly sweater with reindeer jumping around that my grandmother thought was awesome. I had to wear it to school one day.”



Darren Ohashi
HQ PACAF

“During a unit Christmas party during my time on active duty, we had a white-elephant exchange. I ended up getting an old pair of slippers.”

QMSN Tony Asheford
USS Paul Hamilton



“Socks, I guess.”



Tech. Sgt. Terrell Mickens
HQ PACAF

“I cannot recall a Christmas where I received a bad gift. I guess a gift comes from the heart, so I am pretty fortunate for all the gifts I have received.”

Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi and David D. Underwood Jr.

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Rear Adm. Williams reads to students

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, reads to students at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School, during a Christmas Community Read Aloud at the school on Dec. 9.

Photo by Lt. Jeffrey Ross



Bomber wrecked during Dec. 7 attack



A wrecked Army Air Corps B-17C bomber sits near hangar 5 at Hickam Air Field, following the end of the Japanese raid on Dec. 7, 1941. This plane, piloted by Capt. Raymond T. Swenson, was one of those that arrived during the attack after flying in from California. It was hit by a strafing attack after landing and burned in half.

Official U.S. Navy photograph, National Archives collection

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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The sun rises over USS Arizona Memorial and Battleship Missouri Memorial on the 72nd Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration. Pearl Harbor survivors and distinguished guests visited the USS Arizona Memorial for the presentation of wreaths and floral tributes. More than 2,500 guests, including Pearl Harbor survivors and other veterans, attended the National Park Service and U.S. Navy-hosted joint memorial ceremony at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. This year's theme was "Sound the Alarm," examining how thousands of Americans answered their nation's call after the attack and how the nation was united behind a common purpose throughout the war.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tierra Fulgham
(Above) Members of the Commander Navy Region Hawaii Ceremonial Guard prepare to parade the colors during a memorial service at the USS Oklahoma Memorial on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

(Below) NPS rangers and students from the Navy Hale Keiki School present wreaths during the commemoration. U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Juliann Chavaro



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Terri Paden

A Hickam Honor Guard member presents a U.S. flag to World War II veteran, Col. (ret.) Roy Bright, at the Dec. 7 Remembrance Ceremony at Atterbury Circle on Dec. 7. Bright was a B-17 navigator assigned to Hickam Field at the time of the attack. At 99 years-old, Bright has never missed a Dec. 7 Remembrance Ceremony since 1946. The ceremony paid tribute to the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Hickam Field on Dec. 7, 1941, that claimed the lives of 190 Airmen and civilians.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Honor Guard members raise the U.S. flag at the Dec. 7 Remembrance Ceremony at Atterbury Circle on Dec. 7. The flag was flown at half-staff in honor of the 190 Airmen and civilians who lost their lives in the 1941 attack Hickam Field.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan

Everett Hyland, a survivor of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, attends the 72nd Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.



More than 50 Pearl Harbor survivors were honored during the 72nd anniversary commemoration.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Rose Forest



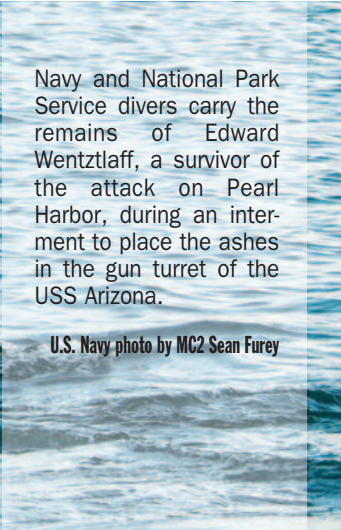
U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Rose Forest

Pearl Harbor survivors talk with local schoolchildren who attended the National Park Service and U.S. Navy-hosted joint memorial ceremony at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan

A traditional Hawaiian blessing is given during the 72nd Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration.



Pearl Harbor survivor Edward Wentzlaff interred in USS Arizona

Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

The ashes of Pearl Harbor survivor Aviation Ordnance-man Chief Warrant Officer Edward Wentzlaff were interred aboard the sunken remains of the USS Arizona at a ceremony held Dec. 7 at the USS Arizona Memorial.

Wentzlaff was born Nov. 16, 1917 in Nicollet, Minn. He joined the Navy in 1937, hoping to learn a trade, and was assigned to the USS Arizona the following year.

He was waiting for a Sunday church service to begin when the first Japanese warplanes appeared in the sky overhead on Dec. 17, 1941. When “general quarters” was sounded he rushed to his battle station. It was a dangerous place to be, as he was exposed and vulnerable to direct attack.

However, he credited his decision to go to his battle station instead of going below deck when the attack began with saving his life as within minutes a bomb hit an ammunition magazine, sinking the Arizona.

When the word was passed to abandon ship, Wentzlaff swam to the admiral’s barge, cut it loose, and helped secure it to the crew’s gangway. But his work

for the day was not done.

“Despite the Japanese planes strafing the ship and the burning oil enveloping the Arizona, Edward went back,” said Daniel Martinez, historian at the USS Arizona Memorial. “He assisted in the care of the wounded and the men who were badly burned.”

During the war, Wentzlaff served on the USS Yorktown and participated in the Battle of the Coral Sea. He would later serve in Virginia, training thousands of aviators and ordnance-men until the end of the war.

Capt. Larry Scruggs, deputy commander of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, who also spoke at the ceremony, described Wentzlaff as a man who “never wavered in his faith of his spirit that day.”

“When he abandoned ship, he still had the courage to pull shipmates from the burning harbor, amidst the withering fire of machine guns, bombs and torpedoes,” said Scruggs.

“It was this type of bravery and selflessness that all our Pearl Harbor survivors share. His story describes so humbly the dedication of his generation.”

After the war, Wentzlaff returned to Minnesota, settling near Milaca where he farmed for most of his life. He also served as PTA president, school board



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sean Furey
A member of the Navy Region Hawaii Ceremonial Guard presents a flag in honor of Pearl Harbor survivor Edward Wentzlaff to his daughter Mary Flock during an interment at the USS Arizona Memorial.

member and mayor of Butterfield, Minn., commander and lifetime member of VFW Post No. 9607 in Butterfield, Watonwan County commissioner and Milaca Legion member. He had five children, seven grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

However, the events of Dec. 7 were never far from his mind, and Wentzlaff made more than 10 trips to Pearl Harbor.

“It was important to him to honor those who went before him,” said Wentzlaff’s daughter, Mary Flock, who flew in from Minnesota for the ceremony.

Wentzlaff had long intended to be interred at the Arizona.

“He had planned this for over 30 years,” said Flock. “It was his last wish to join his shipmates.”

The ceremony held on Dec. 7 was a rare event. There have been fewer than 40 interments of remains on the USS Arizona. The Navy began interring and scattering ashes of Dec. 7 survivors at Pearl Harbor in the late 1980s. Only survivors of the Arizona and Utah may return after death to their ships.

“These are the only burial services like this in the world,” said Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivor liaison.

Services were led by chaplain Capt. Brent Scott from U.S. Pacific Fleet.

After a moment of silence, Wentzlaff’s remains were taken down to the Arizona by Navy and National Park Service divers and his ashes were placed in one of the gun turrets. The ceremony ended with a rifle salute and a flyover as a bugler played “Taps.” An American flag was presented to his family.

“The U.S. Navy and the National Park Service did a wonderful job, and we really appreciate their efforts,” said Flock.

“I know this was a great honor for my father. Everything that happened during his interment ceremony was wonderful. It was sad but it was phenomenal.”



U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Sean Furey
(Left) The Navy Region Hawaii Ceremonial Guard folds an American flag in honor of Pearl Harbor Survivor Edward Wentzlaff during an interment at the USS Arizona Memorial. (Right) The Navy Region Hawaii Ceremonial Guard performs in honor of Pearl Harbor survivor Edward Wentzlaff during an interment at the USS Arizona Memorial.

Hickam Airman receives honors for late grandfather

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Shepherd accepted a folded flag in honor of his late grandfather, Marion Shepherd, during the Dec. 7 remembrance ceremony held at Atterbury Circle at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Shepherd, who is assigned to the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at joint base, had the unique opportunity of attending the remembrance ceremony on behalf of his family and being a participant – an experience he said left him “utterly speechless.”

“Today was different than I expected it to be,” he said. “I knew it would be emotional, but it was almost hard for me to keep my composure at times. There are really no words to describe the moment. Being able to participate gave me a chance to honor my grandfather and show my gratitude to him and his comrades on a personal level, and I’m thankful for having had the opportunity,” Shepherd said.

Marion Shepherd was assigned to Hickam Field after enlisting in the Army Air Corps and survived both the Dec. 7 attack on the base and the Battle of Midway in 1942. He passed away at the age of 89 when Andrew Shepherd was nine years old, but not before leaving a lasting impression on his grandson who enlisted in the Air Force nearly 10 years later.



Marion Shepherd, the grandfather of Tech. Sgt. Andrew Shepherd, who is assigned to the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was enlisted in the Army Air Corps at Hickam Field at the time of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on the base.

“I’d always thought my grandfather had an interesting story, and it definitely did influence me joining the military and volunteering to come to Hawaii,” said Shepherd.

“He’s definitely remembered as a hero in my family, and whenever I drive to and from work and I see the hangar he worked in or the old consolidated barracks he lived in, it’s a reminder that grandpa was here. It’s a very sobering moment, a very cool memory,” Andrew Shepherd said.

Shepherd said he found out about the annual ceremony, which pays tribute to the fallen heroes and survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Hickam Field, shortly after permanently changing station to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in August. Given



Tech. Sgt. Andrew Shepherd, (right), 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, renders a salute before being presented a flag by a Hickam Honor Guard member during the Dec. 7 remembrance ceremony held at Atterbury Circle at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

his family’s history, he was eager to get involved with the event.

“I was raised in a very patriotic family,” he said. “I remember grandpa’s patriotism. He had a flag at the house he would raise and lower every day and his medals were on the wall and I think that was passed down to me through my father. Days like this reinforce that patriotism for me.”

The Wyoming native said though he learned of his grandfather’s past when he was a child, it wasn’t until growing up

and joining the military himself that he gained a full appreciation for his grandpa’s service.

“Grandpa left quite the legacy in our family, and dad was really proud of me for joining the Air Force,” he said.

“I’ll never forget the first time I deployed he told me that he knew his dad would have been proud of me and that made me feel pretty good. I was proud because I knew what I was doing was bigger than myself, and I was honored to be doing something that would have made someone

I always looked up to be proud of me.”

In addition to honoring Marion Shepherd, the ceremony recognized four Hickam Field attack survivors and a host of family members who were in attendance on behalf of their loved ones who were killed in action or deceased. Shepherd said that was the best part of the ceremony for him.

“The symbolism of seeing them present the flags to the survivors and the families was overwhelming,” he said. “Those flags represent everything we

stand for, and it was a very emotional moment for me.”

Shepherd said it was surreal being able to talk with men who had worked with his grandpa when he was stationed at Hickam.

“It was awe-inspiring talking to guys who had worked with grandpa,” he said. “I met a widow whose husband was on the same flight my grandpa got shot on during the Battle of Midway and that to me is what these types of events are all about. I’m proud to know his memory is still being honored even though he’s since passed on.”

Though this was Shepherd’s first opportunity to participate in a remembrance ceremony, his family members are actively involved in events and Shepherd said he is a firm believer that it is necessary to make sure people always remember.

“Everyone remembers Pearl Harbor because so many lives were lost, but it’s unfortunate that most people don’t remember the other places that were attacked and the other service members that were lost,” he said.

“These types of events are necessary because it’s our small way of showing that we remember them and to express our gratitude for their sacrifices. Some of these people gave everything. They gave their lives, and there’s no real way that we can ever repay that other than to keep honoring their memories and remembering their sacrifices,” he said.

Ho`okele to resume Jan. 10, 2014

Today is the last issue of Ho`okele for 2013. We will be taking a three-week hiatus. During the break, our publisher, Honolulu Star-Advertiser, will publish joint military issues. The first issue of Ho`okele in 2014 will be published Jan. 10.



(Left) Capt. Lawrence Scruggs, deputy commander of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, speaks during a sunset ceremony to honor those who perished during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island. USS Utah (AG 16) was sunk during the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sean Furey



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Martinez
Col. Virginia Garner, 15th Medical Group commander, places a lei at the gravestone of Cpl. Vincent J. Kechner Dec. 6 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). Kechner was killed at Hickam Field during the Dec. 7, 1941 attacks on Oahu military installations.



U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth
2013 Miss Hawaii Crystal Lee talks with Pearl Harbor survivor Michael "Mickey" Ganitch over lunch at the Silver Dolphin Bistro, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Dec. 5.

Commentary

‘Day of Infamy’ remains forever etched in nation’s memory

Jim Neuman

Navy Region Hawaii
Historian

There are only a few days in American history that serve as such seminal moments that the mere mention of the calendar date can stand alone with little to no explanation. Dec. 7, 1941 certainly qualifies as one of those dates.

At that moment in time, the Japanese Empire launched an attack on the island of Oahu that left much of America’s military power in the Pacific shattered, including the crippling of the Navy’s fleet of battleships in Pearl Harbor. With the temporary loss of an American seaborne striking force, the Japanese military was able to conquer most of South-East Asia in the hopes of establishing a vast empire that would withstand an Allied counter attack.

Exactly one year later on the morning of Dec. 7, 1942, a full 12 months after the attack, an impromptu ceremony was held on the wreckage of the Arizona.

Though the war was far from over and the cleanup of Pearl still ongoing, the memorial service was attended by both naval and civilian personnel and honored the loss of the 2,400 lives lost on the “day of infamy,” reminding everyone of why this war had to be fought and had to be won.

This spontaneous inclination by military and civilian alike to recognize the Arizona wreckage as a memorial to the ongoing Pacific struggle was not limited to those who plumbed the depths of her wreckage.

Capt. T.C. Miller, a chaplain for the 14th Naval District, summarized the sentiment prevalent at the time with words that would prove prophetic. He was certain that “Pearl Harbor



U.S. Navy photo illustration by MC3 Diana Quinlan

Sailors on Ford Island look on as the Mahan-class destroyer USS Shaw (DD 373) explodes in the background after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The combined images contains photographs taken during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and the same present day location as the event.



U.S. Navy photo illustration by MC3 Diana Quinlan

(Above left) A view of the historic Ford Island control tower: then and now. (Above right) The battleship USS California (BB 44) burns in the foreground as the battleship USS Arizona (BB 39) burns in the background after the initial attack on Pearl Harbor.

would become a post-war shrine—a place to which pilgrimages would be made—and that either by an act of Congress or through some other power, a great memorial would be established here.”

In 1950 the Navy took the lead when Adm. Arthur Radford, the commander of the Pacific Fleet, ordered that American flag be raised daily on a flagpole attached to the wreckage and later that a platform be constructed where small ceremonies

could be held, thereby creating the first memorial on the USS Arizona.

Radford’s wooden platform was utilized until August 1956 when it was determined that Arizona’s hull was weakening due to weathering and was no longer safe. Following the construction of the formal memorial structure, families and friends continued to visit in increasing numbers, and ceremonies were held on the new memorial spanning the wreckage.

A new chapter was reached in 1966 with the 25th anniversary of the Dec. 7 attack.

The survivors, a key constituent of the events surrounding Pearl Harbor, had remained relatively silent in the 25 years that had passed since the “day of infamy.” Throughout those years, the generation that had been eyewitnesses of the attack had fought the war, gone home, started careers, raised families and generally moved into a sem-

blance of normalcy.

But with the passing of time, those Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and civilians began to reflect on the life-shattering memories that never quite left them.

Each new milestone year grew into a larger event as the survivors aged and the nation sought to honor their increasingly depleting numbers. High visibility speakers marked many of the events, such as President George H. W. Bush in 1991, Adm. Vernon Clark, chief of

naval operations in 2001, and Tom Brokaw’s tribute to the “Greatest Generation” in 2006.

Through the years, Pearl Harbor Day, as it has now become known, has taken on a far greater significance to its survivors and the nation. Ever-increasing numbers of Americans visit the memorial year after year with the number now standing at approximately 1.7 million visitors annually.

Rear Adm. Michael Vitale, the Navy Region Hawaii commander from 2004-2006, likened its importance as a national shrine to that of Gettysburg, something far beyond a merely regional matter.

In June 2005, the Navy and the National Park Service met to discuss how best to combine manpower, expertise and resources to honor the memory of those lost on Dec. 7, 1941 and to further educate the public on the seminal nature of that date.

Since then, the combined ceremony of Pearl Harbor Day has become the nation’s primary observance of the event that launched the U.S. into World War Two and inspired the nation to victory with the phrase “Remember Pearl Harbor.”

Today many Americans ask, “Where were you on Sept. 11, 2001?” With fewer and fewer people able to ask the same about Dec. 7, 1941, it becomes imperative that we remember, honor and learn from those who experienced the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

This Dec. 7 marked the 72nd commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The theme for the event was “Sounding the Alarm.” Max Cleland, secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, former U.S. senator and disabled Vietnam War veteran, was keynote speaker.

Service members re-enlist on ‘Mighty Mo’

**McNeil Wilson
Communications**

Twenty-seven service members of the armed forces re-enlisted onboard the retired Battleship Missouri Memorial, the battleship where World War II ended.

The special joint re-enlistment ceremony, held in partnership with the Battleship Missouri Memorial, took place Dec. 7 on the forward main deck under the Missouri’s gun turret one, offering an opportunity for the participants to look toward the USS Arizona Memorial as they recited their oaths.

“Our deepest appreciation and gratitude goes to these service members and their families for recommitting their service to America’s armed forces and the preservation of our nation’s freedom,” said Michael A. Carr, president and chief operating officer of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

“We remember all those who were serving in Pearl

Harbor 72 years ago and honor those who are following in their footsteps.”

Among the 27 armed forces personnel taking part in the reenlistment ceremony was Chief Master Sgt. Paul Koester, the Air Force’s oldest current active-duty member. A 39-year veteran, Koester’s military career spans from the Vietnam Conflict to Operation New Dawn in Iraq. The Dec. 7 ceremony marked his final re-enlistment.

Each re-enlisting service member participating in the ceremony was invited to fly his or her own National Ensign above the Battleship Missouri Memorial and received a commemorative flag certificate from the USS Missouri Memorial Association, caretaker of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Rear Adm. Alma Grocki, deputy chief of staff for fleet maintenance for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, officiated at the ceremony.

Construction of the USS

Missouri (BB-63), the last battleship ever built for America, began in the Brooklyn Navy Yard on Jan. 6, 1941, 11 months before the attack. The “Mighty Mo” was launched on Jan. 29, 1944 and sent to protect America’s freedom in the war’s major battles of the Pacific Theater.

World War II ended and peace was restored aboard the USS Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945 when Imperial Japan surrendered to the allied forces. The Missouri’s famed “surrender deck” can be viewed by visitors to the battleship.

Since opening on Jan. 29, 1999 as the Battleship Missouri Memorial, military ceremonies have been conducted aboard the Mighty Mo on an almost daily basis, including re-enlistments, promotions, retirements and change of commands for personnel serving in all armed forces branches. The Missouri has hosted more than 800 military ceremonies in 2013.



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Katherine Hofman

Rear Adm. Alma Grocki, deputy chief of staff for fleet maintenance for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, re-enlists service members during a mass re-enlistment aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Ford Island.



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Austin Kim

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Steven Cholearka from USS Lake Erie (CG 70) places a flag on an unknown service member’s grave in remembrance of the Pearl Harbor attack.

USS Lake Erie Sailors honor fallen heroes

Ensign Natalie Schimelpfenig

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)

Hawaii and the nation pause each year on Dec. 7 to honor those who fought and died to defend freedom during the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941. Sailors from USS Lake Erie (CG 70) took a special hike to National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on Dec. 6 to pay their respects to heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Sailors arrived at the cemetery early in the morning to place flags at the head of gravesites, recognizing the unknown Sailors who died in the attack of Pearl Harbor and other heroes of World

War II. The mood was somber and reflective as Lake Erie’s Sailors passed through the memorial.

Navy Counselor 1st Class Cyrus Irani organized the event with the support of his fellow first class petty officers.

“Walking around the memorial really brought it home that our job is dangerous but still worth fighting for,” said Information Specialist 1st Class Philip Nelson.

“It’s important to honor those that sacrificed so much for us, and I appreciate even these small opportunities to show our gratitude and admiration for their dedication.”

Lake Erie, with a crew of 352 Sailors, is commanded by Capt. John S. Banigan.